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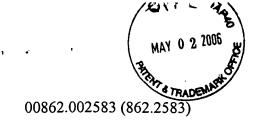
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INSTRUCTIONS: This for appropriate. All further con indicated unless corrected b maintenance fee notification	respondence including the legion or directed otherwise	Patent, advance or	ders and noti	fication	of maintenance fees orrespondence address	will be mailed s; and/or (b) in	to the current dicating a sep	t correspondence address arate "FEE ADDRESS" f	01
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								(Date	)
APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVE		) INVEN	TOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.		CONFIRMATION NO.	
09/217,937 12/22/1998 TITLE OF INVENTION: OPTICAL DEVICE AND METHOD FOR SE			HITOSHI ONODA LECTING OBJECT OF FOCUS			862-2583 3759			
APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FI	JE FEE		JBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE		DATE DUE	_
nonprovisional	. NO	\$1400	<u></u>		\$0	\$1400		07/20/2006	_
EXAM	EXAMINER ART U		NIT CLASS-SUBCLASS		]				
HENN, TIMOTHY J		2622			348-345000				
1. Change of correspondence CFR 1.363).  Change of correspond Address form PTO/SB/12  "Fee Address" indicati PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 o	2. For printing on the patent front page, list  (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,  (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is  3								
Number is required.	more recently attached. est	or a Customer	listed, no n	name wi	ll be printed.		3		-
3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND	RESIDENCE DATA TO B	E PRINTED ON T	HE PATENT	(print	or type)				
	an assignee is identified be 37 CFR 3.11. Completion	elow, no assignee of this form is NO	data will appe Γa substitute	ear on t for filin	he patent. If an assign g an assignment.	nee is identifie	d below, the o	document has been filed for	)[
(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (C					CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)  05/03/2006 MBEYENE2 00000129 09217937				
Canon Kabushiki Kaisha Tokyo, Calegories (will not be printed on the patent):					01 FC:	1591		1400 00 nn	
Please check the appropriate	assignee category or catego	ries (will not be pri	inted on the pa	atent) :	Individual 1	orporation or o	ther private gr	oup entic 5. 1 (1) vernmen	ıt
ta. The following fee(s) are on the last same fee    Publication Fee (No srow Advance Order - # of	Ab. Payment of Fee(s):  A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.  Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 06-1205 (enclose an extra copy of this form).								
5. Change in Entity Status (	from status indicated above	)					,		-
	MALL ENTITY status. See				longer claiming SMA			1 <del>-</del>	
The Director of the USPTO i NOTE: The Issue Fee and Pu nterest as shown by the reco	s requested to apply the Issublication Fee (if required) was of the United States Pate	e Fee and Publicat vill not be accepted int and Trademark	ion Fee (if an from anyone Office.	y) or to other tl	re-apply any previous nan the applicant; a reg	ly paid issue fe istered attorne	e to the applicate or agent; or t	ation identified above. he assignee or other party	n
Authorized Signature	Daniel & ho	ek				2, 2006		<del>-</del>	-
Typed or printed name <u>I</u>			Registration 1	No. <u>37, 83</u>	38	· —			

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	
:	Examiner: Timothy J. Henn
Hitoshi ONODA, et al.	
. 1. N 00/017 027	Group Art Unit: 2622
Appln. No.: 09/217,937 )	Confirmation No.: 3759
Filed: December 22, 1998	Commitmation No.: 3739
:	
For: OPTICAL DEVICE AND METHOD FOR )	May 2, 2006
SELECTING ORIECT OF FOCUS	•

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of a Notice of Allowance dated April 20, 2006, in the above-referenced application. The Issue Fee is due on or before July 20, 2006, and is being paid concurrently herewith.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Reasons for Allowance set forth in the April 20, 2006 Notice of Allowability on the grounds that: (a) whereas the Reasons refer to a "focusing device" and "focusing method", the claim preambles instead recite --an optical device-- and --a distance measuring point selection method--; (b) whereas the Reasons refer to a "grouping unit", Claims 16 and 28 instead recite a --grouping step--; and (c) whereas the Reasons refer to "divides"

an image into a plurality of areas, groups the divided areas into object areas", Claims 27 and 28 do not recite dividing and, instead of grouping the divided areas, recite --grouping the predetermined unit areas of the scene into object areas--.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants Daniel S. Glueck

Registration No. 37,838

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